

Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A process for producing alkaline earth metal salicylates comprising the steps of:
 - A) alkylating salicylic acid with a linear α -olefin comprising at least 14 carbon atoms in the presence of a strong acid catalyst to form an oil soluble alkylated salicylic acid;
 - B) neutralizing the oil soluble alkylated salicylic acid;
 - C) overbasing the oil soluble alkylated salicylic acid by carbonation of lime using CO₂ in the presence of a promoter and a surfactant;
 - D) filtering the product of C); and
 - E) removing solvents by distillation.
2. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the strong acid catalyst is anhydrous methanesulfonic acid.
3. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the alkylation step is carried out at a temperature in the range of from about 50 to about 200° C.
4. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the linear α -olefin is selected from the group consisting of 1-tetradecene, 1-hexadecene, 1-octadecene, 1-eicosene, 1-docosene, 1-tetracosene, and mixtures of the foregoing.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) A process for producing alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salicylates comprising the steps of:

A) alkylating salicylic acid with a linear α -olefin comprising at least 14 carbon atoms in the presence of a strong acid catalyst to form an oil soluble alkylated salicylic acid;

B) reacting the oil soluble alkylated salicylic acid with a previously overbased detergent selected from the group consisting of overbased alkali or alkaline earth sulfonates, phenates, or carboxylates to produce alkali or alkaline earth salicylate salts comprising varying percentages of dispersed alkali or alkaline earth carbonate salts.

7. (Original) The process of claim 6 wherein the strong acid catalyst is anhydrous methanesulfonic acid.

8. (Original) The process of claim 6 wherein the alkylation step is carried out at a temperature in the range of from about 50 to about 200° C.

9. (Original) The process of claim 6 wherein the linear α -olefin is selected from the group consisting of 1-tetradecene, 1-hexadecene, 1-octadecene, 1-eicosene, 1-docosene, 1-tetracosene, and mixtures of the foregoing.

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10. (Original) The process of claim 6 wherein the overbasing step is carried out in the presence of a promoter.

11-12 (Canceled)